

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/092 W

-----028674 211921Z /44

R 211402Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6813  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION SINAI  
USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF KNESSET DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT'S  
STATEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 4461

1. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN DEVOTED RELATIVELY LITTLE  
ATTENTION FO FOREIGN POLICY IN HIS PREPARED TEXT DURING  
THE PRESENTATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT TO THE  
KNESSET JUNE 20 AND WAS CAUTIOUS AND LOW KEY IN WHAT HE  
DID SAY. HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE PALESTINIANS OR OF  
THE WEST BANK. HE GAVE NO DETAILS OF WHAT STEPS HIS  
GOVERNMENT MIGHT UNDERTAKE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT  
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STRESSED THE CONTINUITY OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY BY  
CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN HIS CALL  
FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AND SIMILAR CALLS BY FIVE  
PRECEDING PRIME MINISTERS.

2. ALTHOUGH BEGIN REFERRED ONLY BRIEFLY TO FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS IN HIS FORMAL ADDRESS (ONE PARAGRAPH EACH

ABOUT THE U.S. AND FRANCE, TWO PARAGRAPHS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION, AND A PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL), SEVERAL OF THE OTHER SPEAKERS REFERRED TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES DURING THEIR REMARKS. FOR EXAMPLE, OFFPOSITON LEADER PERES SAID THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND BEGIN HIMSELF IN HIS FINAL RESPONSE DISCUSSED FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SOME GREATER EXTENT AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

3. DAYAN, WHOSE REMARKS WERE CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY HECKLERS, EMPHASIZED THAT A NATIONAL CONSENSUS EXISTS AGAINST TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AGAINST A RETURN TO THE '67 BORDERS. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN SAN FRANCISCO: "WHEN WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY AFTER U.S. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S SPEECH IN SAN FRANCISCO, WE CANNOT AVOID SEEING AND HEARING THE ESSENCE OF WHAT WAS SAID IN THAT SPEECH IN REGARD TO THREE THINGS. ON THE ISSUE OF BORDERS IT WAS SAID THAT ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR AND AS PART OF A PEACE AGREEMENT SHOULD RETURN TO THE PREVIOUS BORDERS WITH MINOR CHANGES. ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ENSURED A HOMELAND WITH SOME SORT OF TIE WITH JORDAN. ON THE DEFENSE ISSUE--ISRAEL'S DEFENSE--IT WAS SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT A PEACE AGREEMENT PROVIDES SECURITY, MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE ALONG THE LINES--AND HERE THE EXAMPLE WAS GIVEN--OF THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT NOW EXIST ON THE SYRIAN BORDER AND THE EGYPTIAN BORDER." DAYAN SAID THE KNESSET MUST REMAIN UNITED: "WE ARE UNITED IN ORDER TO HAVE A COMMON FRONT TO FIGHT AGAINST THE PLANS THAT ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ANY OF THE PARTIES." DAYAN ADMITTED THAT THE CENTRAL ISSUE OVER WHICH THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE KNESSET IS IN REGARD TO THE "PARTITION OF THE WEST BANK"; WHILE THERE MAY BE DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT THAT AREA, THESE ARE ACADEMIC UNTIL THE ARABS COME FORWARD WITH A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. "THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIKUD'S POSITION AND THAT OF THE ALIGNMENT AND THE DMC.. IS THAT THE OTHER PARTIES...PROPOSE AND REGARD AS THE RIGHT PATH TO A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES ONE OR ANOTHER KIND OF PARTITION OF THE WEST BANK. THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

IS THAT THE ARABS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL AND WHEN THEY MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL DISCUSS IT WITH ALL SINCERITY, AND WHEN WE FIND OUT THAT THERE IS AN ARAB PROPOSAL OF THIS KIND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL BE DIVIDED; IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL ACCEPT IT."

4. IN HIS FINAL REMARKS BEGIN RESPONDED TO SOME OF THESE COMMENTS AND ASKED WHY THE BRUDEN OF WORSENING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. SHOULD BE PLACED ON HIM WHEN PROBLEMS HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO SURFACE. HE SIAD HE WILL TELL THE PRESIDENT AT THEIR MEETING NEXT MONTH THAT A CONSENSUS EXISTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN THE KNESSET REJECTING WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 BORDERS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINAIN STATE IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND GAZA. HE SAID THAT AN AMERICAN "DOCUMENT" WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO WHICH WOULD PROVE THAT WASHINGTON WELCOMES THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT. (WE BELIEVE THIS REFERS TO THE PRESIDENTS LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS.) BEGIN AGAIN STRESSED CONTINUITY BY QUOTING A REMARK BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER MEIR THAT ANY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER WHO AGREED TO WITHDRAW TO THE '67 BORDERS WOULD BE GUILTY OF TREASON. HE ALSO QUOTED FORMER GOREIGN MINISTER EBAN WHO REFERRED TO THE '67 BORDERS A "AUSCHWITZ BORDERS." IN A CONVERSATION LATER WITH AN EMBOFF, EBAN AND FORMER MINISTER ZADOK SAID THAT BEGIN WAS TRYING TO BLUR THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE ALIGNMENT. EBAN SAID THAT HIS REMARKS WERE TAKEN SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONTEXT AND THAT HE HAD SAID THAT ANY PEOPLE WHICH HAS EXPERIENCED AUSCHWITZ WOULD NEVER ACCEP BORDERS WHICH WERE NOT DEFENSIBLE. DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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